JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist
Central Iowa

Application Deadline: July 26, 2019

Anticipated Start Date: August 2019

Overview: Pheasants Forever is seeking a highly motivated, dynamic and team-oriented individual with a passion for conservation, agriculture, technology and economics. The employee will work in a joint capacity with Pheasants Forever and other key partners as a key member of the Precision Ag Business Planning Initiative in Iowa. This Initiative offers a unique opportunity to work directly with farmers, advisors, consultants retail ag and partners to analyze operation based on economic performance and looking at alternative practices that increase conservation opportunity and in-field profitability. The employee will process and analyze relevant on-farm data to provide Return on Investment (ROI) planning analytics to farmers using a precision agriculture business planning platform. Employee will also develop economic scenarios for conservation, working lands and other best management practices on acres that will result in increased profitability. Employee will provide clients and colleagues with one-on-one technical software support and training to integrate economic analysis tools, precision ag platforms and decision-making processes. The preferred location for the employee is a USDA Service Center office in central Iowa but the exact location is negotiable.

Job Duties:

• Collaborate with growers to provide agronomic, conservation, working lands and economic analyses assistance that increase producer profitability.
• Lead in the identification and engagement of growers in coordination with local partners.
• Make sound and ethical agronomic/conservation recommendations to maximize profitability for farmers while providing water, soil and wildlife benefits.
• Develop and present business performance scenarios for best management practices to assess profitability of management decisions.
• Develop and maintain relationships with agricultural partners consistent with their needs/wants.
• Facilitate a high-level of communication between the farmer (including their trusted advisors) and partners.
• Focus on understanding producer needs and provide feedback on ways to improve performance.
• Assist with referring producers and agronomists requesting alternative options to appropriate local service center (USDA and/or Soil and Water Conservation District) or other local partners.
• Organize and host workshops, field days and conduct other outreach efforts.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

• Strong customer relation and interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively, and excellent attention to detail.
• Ability to make initial contacts and develop new relationships.
• Self-motivated and able to work independently without direct supervision.
• Knowledge or the ability to understand modern farm equipment, technology and practices with specific knowledge of equipment, application, and operation.
• Commitment to maintain standards and address issues in a timely, professional manner.
• Working knowledge of common conservation programs and practices in Iowa.
• Knowledge of/experience with precision Ag Software and ArcGIS or other mapping software.
• Valid driver’s license required; use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
**Education and Experience Guideline:** Applicants for this position should possess a Bachelor’s degree in Precision Agriculture, Agronomy, Ag Systems Technology, Ag Business, or a Natural Resources field. Candidates with an Associate degree and/or 5+ years of relevant industry experience will be considered. Direct experience working on a farm operation is strongly preferred. A passion for the agriculture, outdoors, conservation, wildlife and working directly with farmers and other ag and conservation professionals is highly beneficial.

**Starting Salary:** Compensation commensurate with experience + Health Benefits and Retirement Package.

**ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Please combine your cover letter, resume and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file before uploading to the Recruitment website. If you have questions about this position, contact: Jamie Cook, jcook@pheasantsforever.org or 859.779.0222

**To Apply:** Visit our website at: www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs

*Pheasants Forever is an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled.*